

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The present invention relates to a surface treating process, and in particular, a surface treating process for forming a deposited film of a metal such as aluminum, zinc and tin, or a metal nitride such as titanium nitride on the surface of a sintered product such as, for example, a rare earth metal-based magnet liable to be oxidized, and the like, thereby ensuring that the sintered product such as the rare earth metal-based magnet has an oxidation resistance.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

In the above conventional surface treating process, however, the substantially uniform vapor-deposition can be performed certainly. However, because the works are piled one on another within the cage-like container, it cannot be avoided that some deposition nonuniformity is produced. Therefore, it has been desired to propose a surface treating process by which a further uniform surface treatment can be performed. Many of rare earth metal-based magnet articles such as Nd-Fe-B based magnet articles, for example, resulting from the processing treatment, are rectangular parallelepiped, hard and moreover, have sharp corners. For this reason, the following problem is arisen: The corners collide with one another during the vapor deposition treatment, whereby the deposited film on the surface is peeled off and in a severe case, the corners of a product are chipped, resulting in a poor yield. Particularly, in a case of a large-sized article, there is a problem that the

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In re the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/407,304  
Applicants: Yoshimi TOCHISHITA, et al.  
Docket No.: 991074A

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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According to a thirty eighth aspect and feature of the present invention, there is provided a surface treating apparatus, comprising a treating material source provided within a treating chamber, so that a treating material released from the treating material source is delivered to reach works for a surface treatment, and a means for rotating a support member supporting the works about a rotational axis.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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According to a fortieth aspect and feature of the present invention, there is provided a surface treating apparatus, comprising a treating material source provided with in a treating chamber, so that a treating material released from the treating material source is delivered to reach works for a surface treatment, and a means for rotating a support member supporting the works about its axis and about a rotational axis.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 10-45 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claim 46 as follows:

46. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works comprising the steps of accommodating the works in a holder, surface treating the works accommodated in the holder while being rotated about an axis of the works, the holder comprising a wire which is coiled at distances in such a manner that it is formed as a spring-like tubular structure having spiral-line faces at opposite ends thereof, so that said works are accommodated in said tubular structure.

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